

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 33. (canceled)

34. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for searching and displaying a structured document including performing ~~an element designated a~~ full-text search to the structured document and highlighted displaying of information on a position of characters meeting a search query in the structured document, the structured document comprising a plurality of elements as its basic structure, the method comprising the steps of:

generating, by a processor, an original analyzed structured document to be searched;

removing, by a processor, predefined ~~elements~~ element tags from the original analyzed structured document, and concatenating content character strings of ~~higher-rank elements and~~ made adjacent in the original analyzed structured document by removal of the removed predefined elements element tags to thereby generate a structured document for a full-text search including the concatenated content character strings omitting the removed predefined element tags, and generating information for restoring the removed predefined ~~elements~~ element tags;

inputting a search query via an input unit;

acquiring, by a processor, information on a position of a character string meeting the search query in the structured document for full-text search;

converting, by a processor, the information on the position of the character string meeting the search query ~~on~~ in the structured document for the full-text search into information on the position of the character string meeting the search query in the original analyzed structured document;

adding, by a processor, element information for the highlighted displaying of the information on the position of the characters meeting the search query, to the original analyzed structured document; ~~and~~

generating, by a processor, a text string of the structured ~~document~~, document from the analyzed structured document with the element information added thereto; and

outputting for display, via an output unit, the generated text string including highlighted characters in the text string according to the added element information.

35. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method for searching and displaying the structured document according to claim 34, wherein when two query terms in the search query match with character strings close to each other, the respective query terms and the minimum character string which contains both of said query terms are displayed in highlighted text with different display formats.

36. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method for searching and displaying the structured document according to claim 34, wherein each of a plurality of query terms constituting the search query and the whole element including said query terms are displayed in highlighted text with different display formats.

37. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method for searching and displaying the structured document according to claim 34, wherein a highlighted display format for highlighted display is set using a method specified in said search query.

38. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method for searching and displaying the structured document according to claim 34, wherein the character string meeting the search query is displayed in highlighted text using any one of a plurality of highlight display formats for each query term.

39. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method for searching and displaying the structured document according to claim 38, wherein the highlighted display format for each query term is determined based on information on occurrence frequency of each query term.

40. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method for searching and displaying the structured document according to claim 38, wherein the display format of highlighted display for each query term is determined based on information in weighting predetermined for each query term.

41. (previously presented) The computer-implemented method for searching and displaying the structured document according to claim 34, wherein

said step of generating a text string includes a step of producing the text string corresponding to the sub-elements to be displayed, from sub-elements of the analyzed structured document.

42. – 45. (canceled)

46. (currently amended) A structured document searching and displaying apparatus for performing ~~an element-designated~~ a full-text search to the structured document, and for highlighted-displaying of information on a position of characters meeting a search query in the structured document, the structured document comprising a plurality of elements as its basic structure, said apparatus including a processor, a memory unit, a file unit and an input/output unit, said processor comprising:

structured document analyzing means for generating an original analyzed structured document to be searched;

means for removing predefined-elements element tags from the original analyzed structured document, and concatenating content character strings of ~~higher-rank elements~~ made adjacent in the original analyzed structured document by removal of ~~and the removed the predefined-elements~~ element tags to thereby generate a structured document for a full-text search including the concatenated content character strings omitting the removed predefined element tags, and generating information for restoring the removed predefined-elements element tags;

full-text searching and processing means for acquiring information on a position of a character string meeting the search query in the structured document for full-text search;

means for converting the information on the position of the character string meeting the search query in the structured document for the full-text search into information on the position of the character string meeting the search query in the original analyzed structured document;

means for adding element information for the highlighted displaying of the information on the position of the characters meeting the search query, to the original analyzed structured document; and

means for generating a text string of the structured document from the analyzed structured document with the element information added thereto.

47. (canceled)

48. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium for storing a program, executable by a computer, for implementing a structured document searching and displaying method of performing ~~an element designated a~~ full-text search to the structured document, and for highlighted display of information on a position of the characters meeting a search query in the structured document, the structured document comprising a plurality of elements as its basic structure, in an information processing system including a processor, a memory unit, a file unit and an input/output unit, said method comprising steps executed by the processor, said steps comprising:

generating an original analyzed structured document to be searched;

removing predefined ~~elements~~ element tags from the original analyzed structured document, and concatenating content character strings of ~~higher-rank~~ elements made adjacent in the original analyzed structured document by removal of ~~and the removed~~ predefined ~~elements~~ element tags to thereby generate a structured document for a full-text search including the concatenated content character strings omitting the removed predefined element tags, and generating information for restoring the removed predefined ~~elements~~ element tags;

acquiring information on a position of a character string meeting the search query in the structured document for full-text search;

converting the information on the position of the character string meeting the search query in the structured document for the full-text search into information on a position of the character string meeting the search query in the original analyzed structured document;

adding element information for the highlighted displaying of the information on the position of the characters meeting the search query, to the original analyzed structured document; and

generating a text string of the structured ~~document~~, document from the analyzed structured document with the element information added thereto.

49. (canceled)